VII. *An Account of a Book Intitled,* Diſſertatio Epiſtolaris de Glandulis conglobatis Duræ Meningis humanæ, indeque ortis Lymphaticis ad Piam Meningem productis. Authore Antonio Pacchiono. Romæ 1705. 8*vo.*

THIS Diſſertation ſeems to be only a Supplement, or *Appendix*, to a Treatiſe of the *Dura Mater*, which our Author, that Induſtrious and moſt Inquiſitive Anatomiſt, *Pacchionus*, had publiſh'd ſometime before. In this his chief Deſign is to inquire into the Service, and find out the Origin of that Humor, which moiſtens the Brain and its Membranes in every dead Animal.

He mentions three things, which kept him from engaging in this Inquiry much ſooner.

The firſt was, becauſe the Accurate *Nuchius* very much blamed their freedom, who were too forward in admitting any Lymphatick Veſſels in the Brain: for he freely owns, that he could never ſucceed in this matter, tho' with the greateſt exactneſs he had often attempted it.

The next was, becauſe the Great *Malpighius*, who was ſo curious and happy in diſcovering the Glands of the *Thorax* and *Abdomen*, did never take the leaſt notice of any in the *Dura Mater*.

The third Obſtacle, that ſtood in his way, was the texture of the Membrane itſelf; which is ſo thick, and compoſed of Fibres ſo very ſtrong, that they ſeem almoſt

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moſt to be Muſcular, and probably altogether unfit for lodging any ſuch bodies as Glands are.

But at laſt the Knife removed all theſe Difficulties, and he happily ſucceeded in the Diſcovery of the following Glands, which are the Subject of this Book.

Before he deſcribes theſe Glandulous Bodies, he premiſes a ſhort Account of the Structure of the Longitudinal and Lateral *Sinus's* of the *Dura Mater*; but adds little or nothing to what the Renowned *Willis*, and the Sagacious *Vieuſſens*, have already ſaid on that Subject.

In examining the Cavity of the Longitudinal *Sinus*, immediately under its membranous Expanſions, in the *Area* or middle of its *Cordæ*, mention'd by Dr. *Willis*, (that is, the ſmall tranſverſe Fibres, which like Ropes keep the Walls of this *Sinus* from being over-dilated by the influent Blood) our Author had the good Fortune to diſcover a great number of Conglobate Glands, which are all contained by a fine and proper Membrane, as in a Bag. For the moſt part they appear in Cluſters, and are ſeldom ſcatter'd here and there. Their Figure is roundiſh; and in bigneſs they equal a Silk-worms Egg, if inſpected as ſoon as the Body is opened; but if the *Meninx* be macerated in Vinegar for a Month, or more, they are bigger than a Millet Seed. In Old People, and in thoſe who have died of a lingring Diſeaſe, they may be ſeen by the naked Eye, without any Microſcope, or previous Preparation. They are incompaſſed with fine Carnous Fibres; whence they put on a pale Colour: But when theſe Fibres are much relaxed, as happens in an *Hydrocephalus*, or Comatoſe Diſtempers of the Brain, they become white and very big.

In the Lateral *Sinus's* they are ſeldom or never obſerv'd; becauſe in thoſe, he thinks, they would have been more ſubject to the ſuperincumbent weight and preſſure of the Brain, which would much have incommoded their Office; but by their ſituation in the Longitudinal *Sinus*, there could no ſuch inconveniency happen.

From the aforeſaid Glands innumerable fine Threads ariſe, and are only their Excretory Veſſels, which are ſpread all over the inſide of the *Pia Mater*, being accompanied and ſtrengthned in their courſe by Fibres and other Blood Veſſels. It is theſe Fibres which join the *Meninges* to one another: And if you take care that the *Dura Mater* be not hurt in taking off the upper part of the Scull, in dividing theſe Membranes, you may obſerve Liquors of different colours ouze and drop from them when cut.

Our Author is not poſitive that theſe Excretory Ducts penetrate into the Medullary Subſtance of the Brain; but affirms, that they creep along its inner Protuberances and accidental Cavities. This Diſcovery confirms what *Bohn* and ſome others have ſaid about the Lymphaticks of the Brain; but before our Induſtrious Author, none did ever ſo much as pretend to fix their Origination, which he has traced from the Glands lodged in the Longitudinal *Sinus*, as above.

The Uſe he aſſigns to theſe Glands, is to ſeparate and ſtrain a particular kind of Humor from the Blood; which, in his Opinion, may ſerve to keep the Membranes and Surfaces of the Cavities and Protuberances of the Brain from growing too dry by their continued Motion. When this Humor becomes either deficient and wanting, or exuberant and in too great a quantity,

tity, the Parts above-named are unfit for the Natural diſcharge of their reſpective Offices, whence ſeveral dangerous Diſtempers muſt neceſſarily follow: He adds ſome Caſes of this kind, which he has obſerved in the Diſſection of morbid Bodies.

Advertiſement.

ALL Perſons who have any thing to communicate to the Royal Society, *are deſired to direct it to be left at their Houſe in* Crane-Court, *in* Fleet-ſtreet, London.

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